

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TIJUAN 00105 221944Z
ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 TRSE-00 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /032 W

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R 212405Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL TIJUANA
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
SECSTATE WASHDC 2284

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TIJUANA 0105

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR MX
SUBJECT: PROPOSED US/MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

REF: HOWARD/KENT LETTER OF FEBRUARY 1

1. MEXICAN PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY TO A PROPOSAL BY BAJA GOVERNOR DE LA MADRID FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN BAJA EJIDOS AND US FARMERS. AS EXPLAINED TO US BY DE LA MADRID, BAJA EJIDOS WOULD SEEK OUT US FARMERS WHO UNABLE TO GROW CERTAIN CROPS BECAUSE OF EXPENSE AND OFFER TO GROW THESE CROPS FOR, AND SELL THEM TO, THE US FARMER. THE US FARMER, WHO IN TURN WOULD MARKET THE CROPS, WOULD PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND SUPERVISION. US BANKS WOULD ENTER THE ARENA ONLY AS NECESSARY TO FINANCE THE FARMERS' PURCHASE OF MEXICAN GROWN PRODUCE.

2. DE LA MADRID COMPLAINED BITTERLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN A "DIRECTED" CAMPAIGN AGAINST THIS SUGGESTION LED BY, HE SAID, EJIDO LEADERS WHO ARE PROFITING FROM CORRUPTION WITHIN THE EJIDOS AND WANT NOTHING CHANGED. DE LA MADRID SEES HIS PROPOSAL AS NOT ONLY ASSISTING THE US FARMERS BUT ALSO WORKING TO EFFECT CONSIDERABLE TECHNICAL REFORM WITHIN THE EJIDO MOVEMENT.

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3. DE LA MADRID EMPHASIZED HIS INVOLVEMENT IS ONLY TO SUGGEST THE PROJECT AND NOT TO BE A PARTICIPANT. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO HAS TOLD HIM THAT IF THE PROJECT WORKS FOR BAJA HE, LOPEZ PORTILLO, WOULD RECOMMEND TO PRESIDENT CARTER THAT THE PROPOSAL BE EXTENDED TO COVER THE ENTIRE US-MEXICAN BORDER.
KENT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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